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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement made on 7 April 1999 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Joschka Fischer, on the situation in Kosovo (see annex).

The Foreign Ministers of France, Italy, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America agreed to the statement. It contains these States' reaction to the announcement by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of a unilateral "ceasefire" during the Orthodox Easter holidays.

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Dieter KASTRUP
Ambassador

Annex

Statement made on 7 April 1999 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany

The current military action of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is in support of the political aim of the international community: a peaceful, multi-ethnic, democratic Kosovo in which all its people live in security.

The ceasefire by the Yugoslav army in its operations against the Kosovo Liberation Army called by Belgrade authorities does not cover the activities of Serb police and paramilitaries. Belgrade's proposal provides an insufficient basis for achieving the international community's objective cited above. Specifically, Belgrade's proposal leaves unanswered the following questions:

Is Milosevic prepared for verifiable cessation of all combat activities and killings?

Is Milosevic prepared to withdraw military, police and paramilitary forces from Kosovo?

Is Milosevic prepared to agree to the deployment of an international security force?

Is Milosevic prepared to permit the unconditional return of all refugees and unimpeded access for humanitarian aid?

Finally, is Milosevic prepared to join in putting in place a political framework for Kosovo on the basis of the Rambouillet accords?

Belgrade's proposal for a ceasefire will be without significance unless it is accompanied by positive answers to the above questions.

We look for such answers from Belgrade immediately. We also call for the release of Dr. Rugova and all of his family, and the ability of the international community to meet with him outside Yugoslavia under conditions free of possible intimidation.